GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
SPACE
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:350
ANSWERED ON:23.12.2015
Disaster Management by ISRO
Nishank Dr. Ramesh Pokhriyal

Will the Minister of SPACE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has developed any disaster management mechanism, if so, the details thereof;
(b) whether the space department has link-ups with various State agencies for the purpose, if so, the details thereof; and
(c) the programmes being implemented by the Government for research and skill development in space technology?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PG & PENSIONS AND IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (DR. JITENDRA SINGH):

(a)to(c) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

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STATEMENT LAID ON THE TABLE OF THE LOK SABHA IN REPLY TO STARRED QUESTION NO.350 REGARDING "DISASTER MANAGEMENT BY ISRO" ASKED BY DR. RAMESH POKHRIYAL "NISHANK" TO BE ANSWERED ON WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 23, 2015.

(a) Under its Disaster Management Support (DMS) Programme, Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) supports the disaster management activities in the country by means of providing − (i) Aerial and Space based data & information services and (ii) Satellite based emergency communication services.

To enable these services, ISRO has set up a Decision Support Centre (DSC) in 2005 at National Remote Sensing Centre, Hyderabad for providing data, value added products and information services in near-real time to concerned Central and State departments. The DSC presently supports the needs of various natural disasters such as Cyclone, Flood, Earthquake, Tsunami, Landslide and Forest Fire. In respect of agricultural drought, ISRO has developed and transferred the methodology to Mahalanobis National Centre for Crop Forecasting (MNCFC) under Department of Agriculture and Cooperation & Farmers Welfare (DAC&FW). ISRO also enables satellite based emergency communication services through portable satellite phones and transportable satellite terminals to facilitate data and voice transfer between inaccessible areas. Further, in association with India Meteorological Department (IMD) more than 200 Cyclone Warning Dissemination Systems are installed in the coastal areas.

(b) At the behest of Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA), ISRO has established a satellite based Virtual Private Network (VPN) comprising of 44 nodes, which link-ups National Emergency Operations Centre (NEOC), State Emergency Operations Centres (SEOCs), Data providing agency nodes and Observational nodes. Also, ISRO works in close coordination with State Disaster Management Authorities (SDMAs), State Disaster Management (Relief) Departments (DMD), Water Resources Departments (WRDs), Forest Departments, State Remote Sensing Application Centres (SRSACs) and other nodal agencies associated with disaster management in the states.

(c) Under DMS programme, ISRO undertakes research towards the development of methodology for early warning systems, tools & techniques for generating value added products, geospatial modelling techniques, web & mobile based applications and satellite based emergency communication systems.

Towards skill development, DSC regularly conducts orientation trainings for the state level disaster management functionaries to familiarise them with space technology, value added products & services and its utilisation during disaster relief and mitigation. Also, Indian Institute of Remote Sensing (IIRS) at Dehra Dun regularly conducts capacity building programmes for the disaster management professionals at senior, middle and field levels.

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